

# ELECTRONIC THESES AND DISSERTATION CONTRIBUTIONS IN SHODHGANGA BY PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN HARYANA: AN ASSESSMENT

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**Abstract** Electronic theses and dissertations are the digital version of masters' and doctoral research reports submitted to the Indian universities. The purpose of this paper is to evaluate and analyze the electronic theses and dissertations uploaded in the Shodhganga by the private universities of Haryana. This study provides an insight on the information relevant to academic researcher community about their research contributions in Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) repository. At present, 24 private universities are established in Haryana state of India; however, only 12 private universities of Haryana are listed in UGC website signed MoU with INFLIBNET to contribute their theses on Shodhganga. There are total 709 e-theses uploaded on Shodhganga ETD repository by 12 private universities in Haryana state of India. The Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) has submitted highest number (369) of e-theses to the Shodhganga. The most of the submission (262) are made in the science subjects, followed by engineering and technology subjects (220).

**Keywords:** Open Access, Digital resources, Electronic theses and dissertation, ETD, UGC, INFLIBNET, Shodhganga, Private universities, Haryana.

## 1.0 Introduction

Digital era is a revolution to the human intellectuals. Now, it is supposed that print information must be available in electronic or digital form because of many benefits such as less space required, easy to store, retrieve and disseminate, and time saving. Furthermore, the trend has now been changed from commercial digital information and resources to Open Access (OA). Simply, the current era is now being termed as open access era. Open access information is the key to knowledge in its both transfer and generation. Open access information is now stored in repositories, which is currently become an important part of any research organization and higher educational institutions. "Open access repositories are those websites hosted by the universities and other research organizations that allow everyone to download scientific research papers without any cost. Open access repositories are not simply data stores or backup systems but are actively planned, curated and managed staffed by dedicated and specialist personnel who are dealing with multiple depositors, diverse interlinked data sets and varying formats, standards, protocols and technologies and seek to add value and ensure continuity" (Kitchin *et al.*, 2014).

In academia, Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) are now widely been accepted or being mandatory as a part of research or degree credentials for master's and doctoral level. Theses and dissertations are an important part of the information resources in any university or higher educational institution. Actually, "a thesis is a critically written scholarly piece of research work. Typically, it is submitted by students graduating from a master's or doctoral program. The purpose of a thesis is to allow students to showcase their knowledge and expertise within the subject matter they have been studying as part of the program. It includes all information about the original research or expanded research on a new or existing topic conducted by the student or researcher" (Enago Academy, 2021).

In this digital era, theses and dissertations are now stored in repositories as an open access resources. The resources available in open access platform can be accessed by the students/researchers freely as per his/her time convenience. Hence, an effort has been made in this study to evaluate the electronic theses submitted to Shodhganga ETD repository based on various parameters by private universities in Haryana state of India.

## **2.0 Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETD)**

“ETDs exist since more than two decade now, in 1997 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) were the first university that required all researchers to submit their Theses and Dissertations in ETDs form. Though UNESCO supported Virginia Tech in initiating an online guide of best practices for developing ETD programmes and came with collected articles by experts from all over the world, on practices information and best practices for all areas of ETD development and implementation in the form of a 420 page document, *The guide for Electronic Theses and Dissertations* (<http://etdguide.org>). In 2001, in most of the countries, universities have made ETD submission mandatory and in India too UGC released ‘Regulations 2005’ for submission of Metadata and full-text of Doctoral Theses in Electronic Format” (Gupta, 2011). In 2004, University of Mysore began a national level ETD project called Vidyandhi and some of the universities submitted their theses as it was not compulsory for the universities. In 2005, the Planning Commission of India set up a National Knowledge Commission (NKN), which focused on knowledge production and dissemination in the current knowledge economy. NKN recommended for online storage of ETDs as one of the easiest and most effective ways to promote open access to the rich educational content produced by all universities in India. The prime objective of ETD submitted to digital repository was to facilitate access to the Indian academic community world-wide and to overcome the duplication of research and to enhance the quality of India research output.

## **3.0 What is an ETD?**

In simple words, an Electronic Theses and Dissertation (ETD) is an electronic version of theses or dissertation. Generally, ETD is the same product as a paper theses or dissertation, which is to be submitted to the concerned University or higher educational institution. The prime objective of ETD is to make the research of a researcher freely and openly accessible.

## **4.0 Shodhganga: a reservoir of Indian Theses**

Shodhganga is an electronic repository of Indian theses and dissertations using an open source digital repository software known as DSpace developed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in partnership of Hewlett-Packard (HP). The word ‘Shodh’ taken from Sanskrit language, which means research or discovery, and the word ‘Ganga’ was taken from the longest and holy river of Indian sub-continent. “Shodhganga provides a platform for research scholars to deposit their Ph.D. theses and make it available to the entire scholarly community in open access. The repository has the ability to capture, index, store, disseminate and preserve ETDs by the Indian researchers. Shodhganga supports “Open Archives Initiative’s Protocol for Metadata Harvesting” (OAI-PMH) and used the version of the Dublin Core metadata schema. The INFLIBNET Centre also promotes setting-up of institutional and ETD repositories in member universities using OAI-PMH compliant software. Universities and other higher educational Institutions in India can also use Shodhganga repository to host their theses as backup archives” (Shodhganga, 2021). At present, 617 universities have signed MoU with INFLIBNET Centre; however, among them, 513 universities uploading their theses on Shodhganga. As on today, 28.1.2022, total number of theses submitted to the repository is 3,37,671. Apart from this, 8,395 synopsis have also been uploaded on the repository.

## **5.0 Private Universities in Haryana**

At present, there are total 51 universities established in Haryana state, out of which 24 state private universities, 01 central university, 06 deemed to be universities, and 20 state universities currently imparting higher education and are recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under the department of higher education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The current study includes only state private universities of Haryana state of India. Among the 12 private universities under study, two universities have now got the status of Deemed to be University.

**Table 1: List of private universities who have MoU with INFLIBNET**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Private Universities</b>	<b>Establishment Year</b>
1.	Amity University, Gurugram	2010
2.	Apeejay Stya University, Gurugram	2010

3.	GD Goenka University, Gurugram	2013
4.	Jagan Nath University, Jhajjar	2013
5.	Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Sadopur	2010
6.	MVN University, Palwal	2012
7.	SGT University, Gurugram	2013
8.	Sushant University, Gurugram	2012
9.	The NorthCap University, Gurugram	2009
10.	Manav Rachna University, Faridabad	2014
11.	Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Deemed to be University)	2007
12.	Lingaya's University, Faridabad (Deemed to be University)	2009

**6.0 Objectives of the study**

The present study was undertaken with the following objectives:

- To explore the total number of theses submitted to the Shodhganga ETD repository by the private universities in Haryana
- To find out the leading subjects of the respective private universities based on their contribution to Shodhganga ETD repository
- To rank the private universities based on their contributions
- To rank the private universities by department wise with their contribution to Shodhganga.

**7.0 Scope and limitation of the study**

The present study was undertaken with the main objective to assess the contribution of electronic theses and dissertations by the state private universities of Haryana state of India on Shodhganga ETD repository. The study was limited to assess the ETD contribution in Shodhganga repository only by state private universities including two private Deemed to be Universities who have MoU with UGC for the contribution in Shodhganga and regularly uploading their ETDs to the repository.

**8.0 Research methodology**

The present study covers the record of 709 (As on 28.01.2022) doctoral theses uploaded on Shodhganga ETD repository by the 12 private universities of Haryana. Out of 12 private universities, two universities are holding the status of Deemed to be University. The data will be collected from the Shodhganga repository (<https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>) related with the contribution of private universities of Haryana state of India.

**9.0 Data analysis and interpretation**

The collected data are analysed, interpreted, and presented under the following headings/tables:

**Table 2: University wise e-theses submitted to Shodhganga**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name of the private universities</b>	<b>No. of theses submitted</b>	<b>%age</b>
1.	Amity University, Gurugram (AU)	100	14.11
2.	Apeejay Stya University, Gurugram (ASU)	10	1.42
3.	GD Goenka University, Gurugram (GDGU)	17	2.39
4.	Jagan Nath University, Jhajjar (JNU)	17	2.39
5.	Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Sadopur (MMUS)	17	2.39
6.	MVN University, Palwal (MVNU)	38	5.36
7.	SGT University, Gurugram (SGTU)	15	2.12
8.	Sushant University, Gurugram (SU)	42	5.92
9.	The NorthCap University, Gurugram (NCU)	72	10.15
10.	Manav Rachna University, Faridabad (MRU)	10	1.42
11.	Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Deemed to be University) (MMUM)	369	52.05
12.	Lingaya's University, Faridabad (Deemed to be University) (LU)	02	0.28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2 highlights the number of theses submitted by the private universities to Shodhganga ETD repository and it was revealed that 12 private universities of Haryana submitted 709 e-theses. The Maharishi Markandeshwar

University, Mullana (Ambala) has submitted 369 (52.05%) e-theses, while 100 e-theses submitted by Amity University, Gurugram to the Shodhganga repository. On the other hand, the NorthCap University, Gurugram has submitted 72 e-theses to Shodhganga, while Sushant University, Gurugram has submitted 42 e-theses. The MVN University, Palwal has submitted 38 e-theses to the Shodhganga repository, whereas SGT University, Gurugram has submitted 15 e-theses, followed by GD Goenka University, Gurugram (17), Jagan Nath University, Jhajjar (17), Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Sadopur (17), Apeejay Stya University, Gurugram (10), Manav Rachna University, Faridabad (10) and Lingaya’s University, Faridabad (02) respectively. The data analysis shows that Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) and Amity University, Gurugram are regularly uploaded their e-theses to the Shodhganga ETD repository.

**Table 3: Faculty of science department-wise e-theses submitted to Shodhganga**

Sr. No.	Science Subjects	AU	ASU	GDGU	JNU	MMUS	MVNU	SGTU	SU	NCU	MRU	MMUM	LU
		1.	Biotechnology	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Applied sciences	09	-	-	-	-	02	-	-	13	-	-	-
3.	Earth & Environmental science	02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Physics	02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-
5.	Chemistry	02	-	-	-	03	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
6.	Mathematics	03	-	-	-	01	-	-	-	-	-	52	-
7.	Pharmaceutical sciences/Pharmacy	-	04	-	-	-	05	-	-	-	-	35	-
8.	Bio sciences	-	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Medical and health sciences	-	-	-	01	-	-	08	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Anatomy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	05	-
11.	Biochemistry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	07	-
12.	Dental sciences	-	-	-	-	-	-	03	-	-	-	01	-
13.	Microbiology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	02	-
14.	Nursing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	03	-
15.	Physiology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	02	-
16.	Physiotherapy	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	-	-	-	01	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>00</b>
		<b>262</b>											

The data presented in the Table 3 shows the various science subjects e-theses submitted to Shodhganga ETD repository in 16 main departments/subjects by the private universities in Haryana state of India. Out of 12 private universities taken under study, the Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) has submitted highest number (178) of e-theses to the Shodhganga repository, followed by Amity University (42), the NorthCap University (13), SGT University (12), MVN University (07), Apeejay Stya University (05), Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Sadopur (Ambala) (04), and Jagan Nath University (01) respectively.

**Table 4: Faculty of humanities e-theses submitted to Shodhganga**

Sr. No.	Humanities Subjects	AU	ASU	GDGU	JNU	MMUS	MVNU	SGTU	SU	NCU	MRU	MMUM	LU
		1.	Humanities	-	-	01	-	01	-	-	-	-	-

E-theses related with humanities subjects submitted to Shodhganga by the private universities in Haryana are shown by the data given in Table 4. The data clearly shows that out of 12 private universities, only three universities have been contributed to Shodhganga ETD repository, i.e., GD Goenka University (01), Maharishi Markandeshwar

University, Sadopur (Ambala) (01), and Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) (43). The Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) was the leading among all private universities in Haryana, which submitted highest number (43) of e-theses to the Shodhganga repository in humanities disciplines.

**Table 5: Faculty of social science and law department-wise e-theses submitted to Shodhganga**

Sr. No.	Social Science and Law Subjects	AU	ASU	GDGU	JNU	MMUS	MVNU	SGTU	SU	NCU	MRU	MMUM	LU
1.	Commerce	04	-	-	-	-	04	-	02	-	-	-	-
2.	Business & Management	17	01	09	09	05	03	01	20	13	02	63	01
3.	Journalism and mass communication	05	04	-	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Liberal arts	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Hospital administration	02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Psychology and behavioural science	02	-	-	-	-	-	01	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Education	-	-	-	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Law	04	-	04	-	-	01	-	-	02	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>01</b>

The data given in Table 5 highlights the theses submitted to Shodhganga in eight social science and law departments. The data clearly depicts that Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) has submitted highest number of e-theses (63) in various social sciences subjects, whereas, Amity University has submitted 35 e-theses to the Shodhganga repository. On the other hand, Sushant University has submitted 22 e-theses, while the NorthCap University has submitted 15 e-theses to the Shodhganga ETD repository, followed by GD Goenka University (13), Jagan Nath University (11), MVN University (08), Apeejay Stya University (05), Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Sadopur (Ambala) (05), SGT University (02), Manav Rachna University (02), and Lingaya’s University (01) respectively. The analysis shows that Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) has contributed maximum e-theses (63) to the Shodhganga repository in social sciences subjects.

**Table 6: Faculty of engineering and technology department-wise e-theses submitted to Shodhganga**

Sr. No.	Engineering and Technology Subjects	AU	ASU	GDGU	JNU	MMUS	MVNU	SGTU	SU	NCU	MRU	MMUM	LU
1.	Fashion technology	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Computer science engg.	09	-	-	03	06	09	-	-	21	03	63	-
3.	Electronics and communication engg.	05	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	10	04	13	-
4.	Engineering & technology	04	-	02	02	-	-	01	18	-	-	-	-
5.	Architecture and planning	04	-	01	-	-	-	-	02	-	-	-	-
6.	Civil engineering	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	06	-	03	01
7.	Electrical engg.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	02	-
8.	Information technology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	03	-
9.	Mechanical engg.	-	-	-	-	01	-	-	-	07	01	01	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>01</b>

The presented data in Table 6 reveals the numbers e-theses submitted to Shodhganga repository by the private universities in Haryana in various engineering and technology departments/subjects. It was clearly found that the

Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) has contributed 85 e-theses to Shodhganga ETD repository, while the NorthCap University has contributed 44 e-theses. On the other side, Amity University and MVN University have contributed equal number (23) of e-theses to the repository. The Sushant University has contributed 20 e-theses to the Shodhganga repository, while Manav Rachna University has contributed 08 e-theses, followed by the Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Sadopur (Ambala) (07), Jagan Natha University (05), GD Goenka University (03), SGT University (01) and Lingaya's University (01) respectively. The analysis shows that the Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) has contributed highest number (85) of e-theses to the Shodhganga ETD repository among the other private universities in Haryana.

**Table 7: Ranking of most contributing departments of private universities**

Sr. No.	Name of Universities	Science subjects	Humanities subjects	Social science and Law subjects	Engineering and technology subjects	Total contribution	Ranking
1.	Amity University, Gurugram (AU)	42	-	35	23	100	2
2.	Apeejay Styra University, Gurugram (ASU)	05	-	05	00	10	8
3.	GD Goenka University, Gurugram (GDGU)	00	01	13	03	17	
4.	Jagan Nath University, Jhajjar (JNU)	01	-	11	05	17	
5.	Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Sadopur (MMUS)	04	01	05	07	17	6
6.	MVN University, Palwal (MVNU)	07	-	08	23	38	5
7.	SGT University, Gurugram (SGTU)	12	-	02	01	15	7
8.	Sushant University, Gurugram (SU)	00	-	22	20	42	4
9.	The NorthCap University, Gurugram (NCU)	13	-	15	44	72	3
10.	Manav Rachna University, Faridabad (MRU)	00	-	02	08	10	8
11.	Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Deemed to be University) (MMUM)	178	43	63	85	369	1
12.	Lingaya's University, Faridabad (Deemed to be University) (LU)	00	-	01	01	02	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>709</b>	

The Table 7 shows the overall contributing subjects/departments in Shodhganga of private universities in Haryana under study. It was clearly observed that science subjects (262) has maximum number of contribution among all private universities, followed by engineering and technology subjects (220), social science and law subjects (182) and humanities (45) has least number of contribution.

As far as concerned the overall ranking of the private universities based on their contribution to the Shodhganga ETD repository, the Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) is on 1st position, whereas, Amity University, Gurugram is on 2nd place. Similarly, The NorthCap University, Gurugram is on 3rd place, while Sushant University, Gurugram is on 4th place, followed by MVN University, Palwal (5th place). For 6th place, three universities have tied up, *i.e.*, GD Goenka University, Gurugram, Jagan Nath University, Palwal, and Maharishi

Markandeshwar University, Sadopur. Apart from this, SGT University, Gurugram is on 7th place, whereas, Apeejay Stya University, Gurugram and Manav Rachna University, Faridabad are jointly on 8th place. Lingaya's University, Faridabad is on 9th place as per the contribution in Shodhganga ETD repository.

### **10.0 Major findings**

Some of the major findings may be summarize as given below:

- As on 28.1.2022, a total 709 e-theses are uploaded on Shodhganga ETD repository by the private universities in Haryana state of India.
- The Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) has submitted highest number (178) of e-theses to the Shodhganga repository under science subject's category, followed by Amity University (42) and the NorthCap University (13).
- The Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) is the leading among all private universities in Haryana, which submitted highest number (43) of e-theses to the Shodhganga repository under humanities subjects.
- The analysis also found that the Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) has contributed maximum e-theses (63) to the Shodhganga repository in social sciences and law subjects.
- It is also found that the Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala) has contributed 85 e-theses to Shodhganga ETD repository in engineering and technology subjects, followed by NorthCap University (44) e-theses.
- It is found that science subjects (262) has maximum number of contribution among all private universities, whereas, engineering and technology subjects has 220 e-theses, followed by social science and law subjects (182).

### **11.0 Conclusion**

Theses and dissertations are comes under the category of primary resources. Theses and dissertations are the most valuable assessts to any higher educational institution as well as for the researchers. Electronic version of theses are now trending and most of the higher educational institutions or universities are promoting the researchers to submit their research reports/theses in electronic form. E-theses commonly known as ETDs are easy to find and use because it available on web platform in electronic form and anyone can search and use easily without any time restrictions. Now University Grants Commission (UGC) has made it mandatory for all the researchers of all the affiliating universities in India to submit their theses and dissertations in electronic form along with print form. It was found from the data analysis that a very few private universities in Haryana are regularly uploaded their theses on Shodhganga ETD repository, hence, it is suggested that for the benefits of research community, all the private universities in Haryana, which have signed the MoU with UGC-INFLIBNET, actual data or complete e-theses must be uploaded on Shodhganga repository on regular basis. Furthermore, it is also been suggested that the libraries of private universities must be played a very crucial role in uploading their intellectual output in national repository, *i.e.*, Shodhganga ETD repository so that other researchers of Haryana, India as well as the researchers of other countries could also be benefited.

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